



Background:

State and local public health agencies are receiving calls from the public, providers, and press regarding Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). At this time, clusters have been reported in several states in the mid-west. Enteroviruses are associated with various clinical symptoms, including mild respiratory illness, febrile rash illness, and neurologic illness, such as aseptic meningitis and encephalitis.

At this time, no clusters or outbreaks have been confirmed in Montana. A single case in a child hospitalized with underlying medical conditions has been confirmed as EV-D68. However, since enteroviruses are common causes of respiratory infections, we assume that the virus is circulating in other areas of the state.

Similar to many other viruses causing respiratory illnesses, there is no specific treatment for enteroviruses.

Practice good respiratory hygiene as recommended by the CDC:

You can help protect your staff, students and their families from respiratory illnesses by following these steps:

- o Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after visits to the bathroom.
- o Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- o Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick.
- o Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, lunch room tables and desks.

Many local hospitals have the ability to identify enteroviruses but will not be able to specify EV-D68 specifically. DPHHS would consider a cluster of respiratory illnesses

with at least one testing positive for enterovirus as a suspect. More specific testing would be required to confirm EV-D68. Please consult with a health care professional regarding the need and support for further testing.

We strongly suggest communicating basic prevention messages to your staff, students and their families. As respiratory season approaches, the same steps will help prevent the spread of influenza and other respiratory conditions.

DPHHS will share information via email with health department contacts as clusters/outbreaks and hospitalizations are identified and reported. Their focus will not be on individual cases. Since enteroviruses are common and many cases will not require care, it should be assumed that cases are in the community and prevention messages should be stressed.

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